

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 were originally filed in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 18-19, and 28 are cancelled. In cancelling these claims, applicant retains the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications directed to subject matter of these cancelled claims.

Claims 2, 4-17, 20-27, 29, 33-34, and 41 are amended.

Accordingly, claims 2, 4-17, 20-27 and 29-41 remain in this application.

The Rejection of Claims 1-12, 24, 27, 41 Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 1 has been cancelled, which renders the rejection to this claim moot.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct insufficient antecedent basis as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 10, 24 and 41 have been amended to cure indefiniteness formalities as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 27 has also been amended for purposes of formalities.

Further amendments have been made to claims 2, 5-9, 11-17, 20-23, 25-26 and 32 for purposes of reciting with greater simplicity certain embodiments as were previously implicit within the disclosure of the original filing.

The Allowability of Claims 4, 19, 29-32 and 35-38:

Applicant acknowledges the Examiners conditional allowance of claims 4, 19, 29-32 and 35-38 if amended for independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 has been amended for independent form and to include limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claim 4 is now in condition for allowance. Likewise, it follows that associated dependent claims 2, 5-12 also are now in condition for allowance at least for reason of depending upon an allowable base claim, and in addition for reason of their own associated features.

The features of allowable claim 19 have been moved into independent claim 13, together with some intervening limitations thereto. Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claim 13 is now in condition for allowance. Likewise, it follows that associated dependent claims 12-17 and 20-26 also are now allowable for reason of being dependent upon an allowable base claim and additionally because of their own associated features.

Some features associated with allowable dependent claim 19 have been moved into independent claim 27. Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claim 27 is now in condition for allowance.

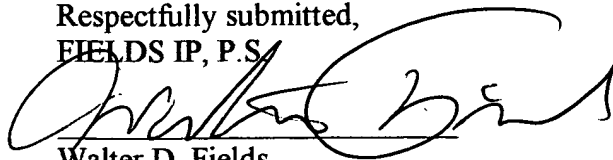
Allowable claim 29 has been amended for independent form and to include limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claim 29 is now in condition for allowance. Likewise, it follows that associated dependent claims 29-40 also are now in condition for allowance at least for reason of depending upon an allowable base claim, and in addition to reasons of their own associated features.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that claims 2, 4-17, 20-27 and 29-41 are now in conditional of allowance and respectfully urges such action for this application.

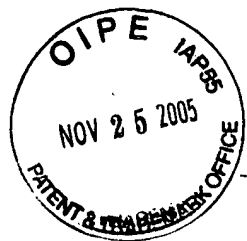
Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If a discussion with the Examiner would be helpful, applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned directly at 360-750-9936.

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Respectfully submitted,
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Serial No. 10/764,596
Att'y Docket No. 10001.001.00/US

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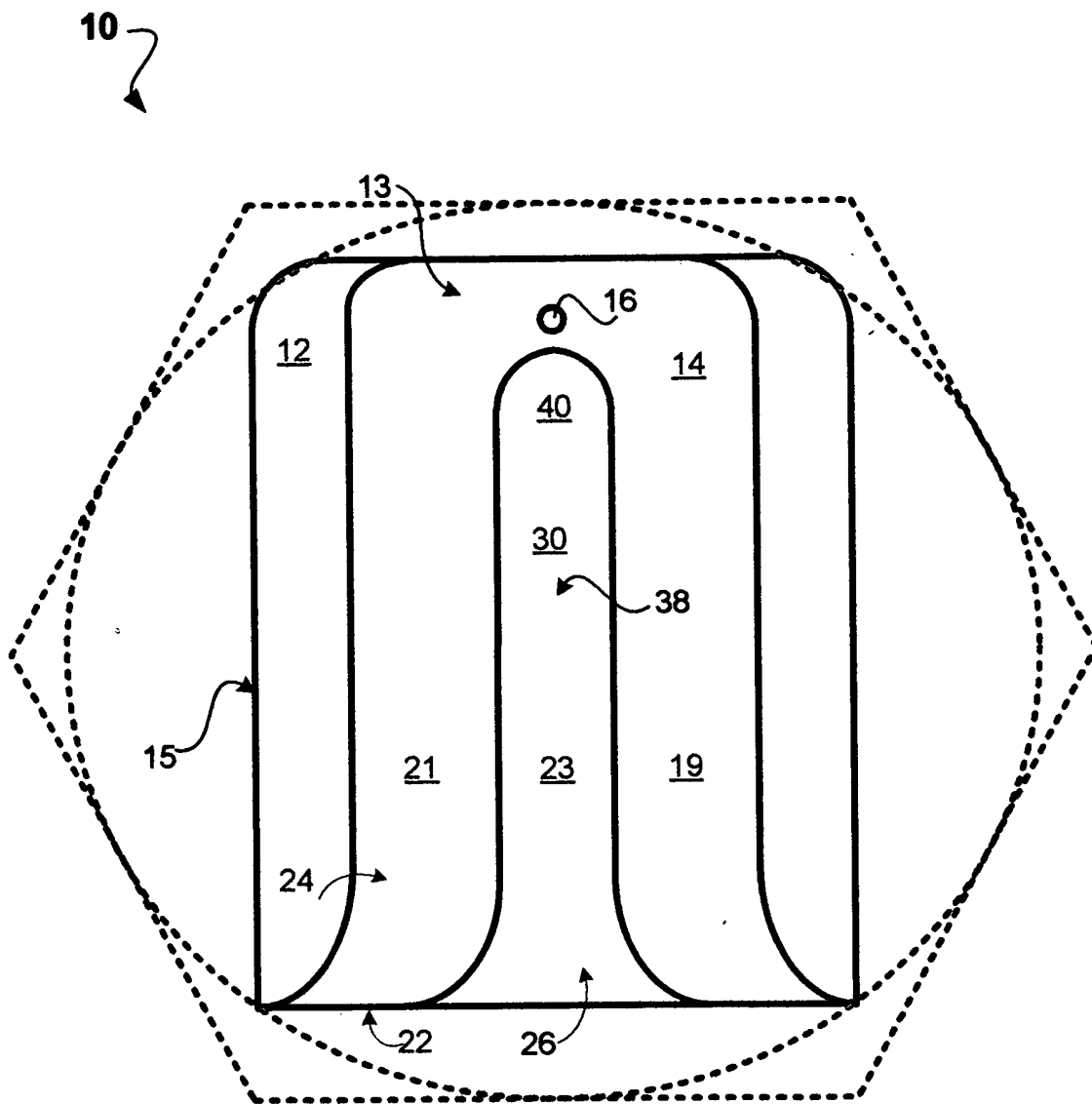


FIG. 1

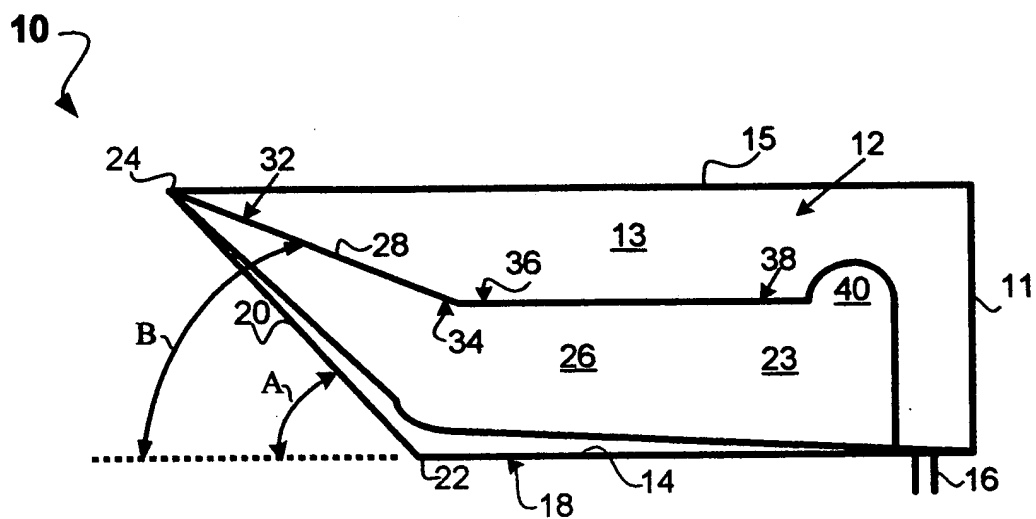


FIG. 2A

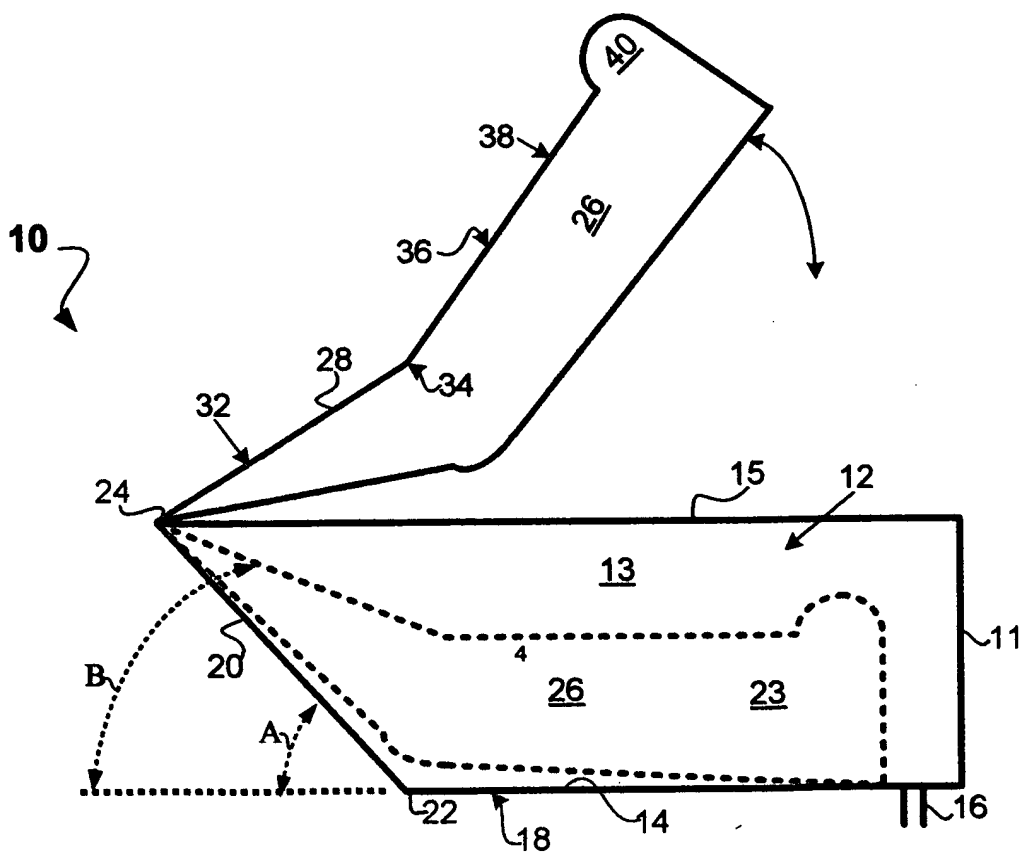


FIG. 2B

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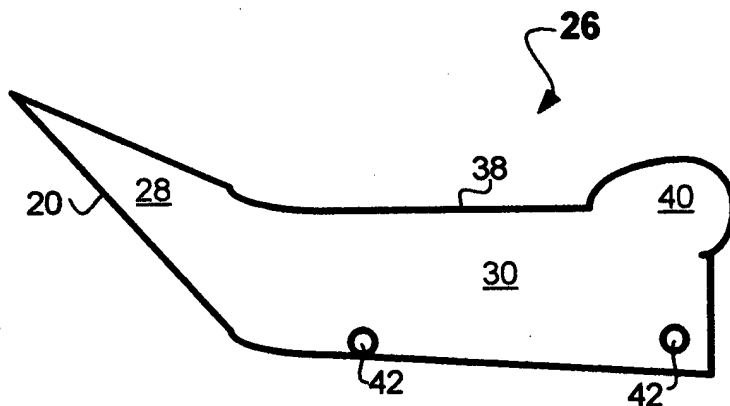


FIG. 3

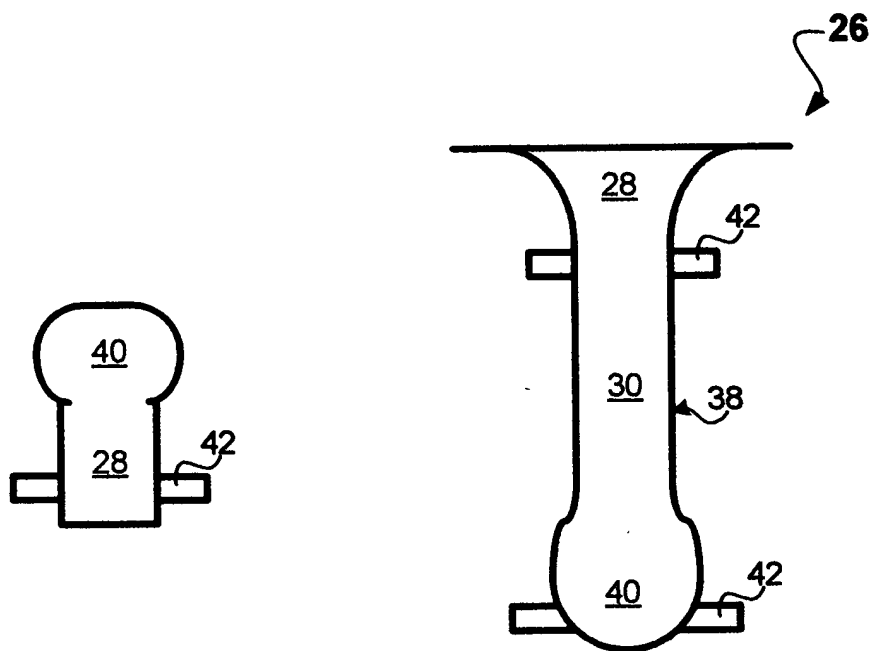


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

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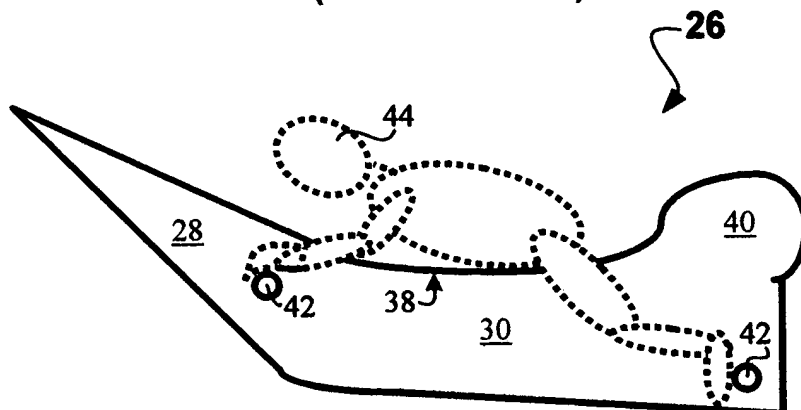


FIG. 6

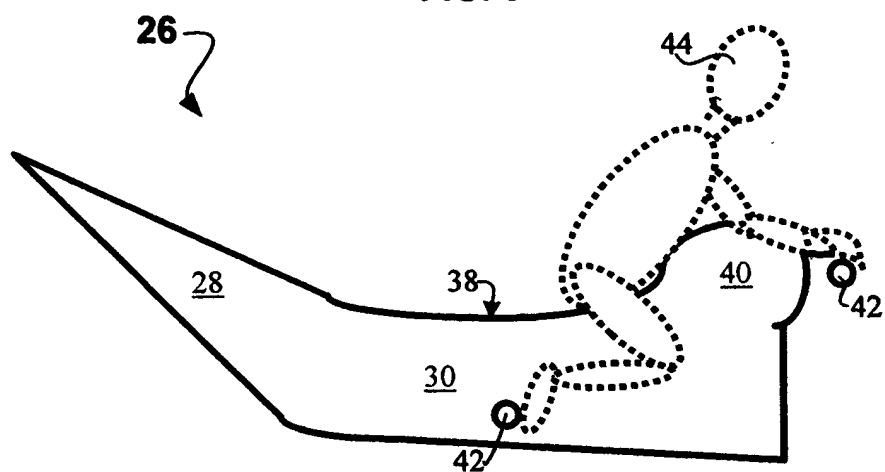


FIG. 7

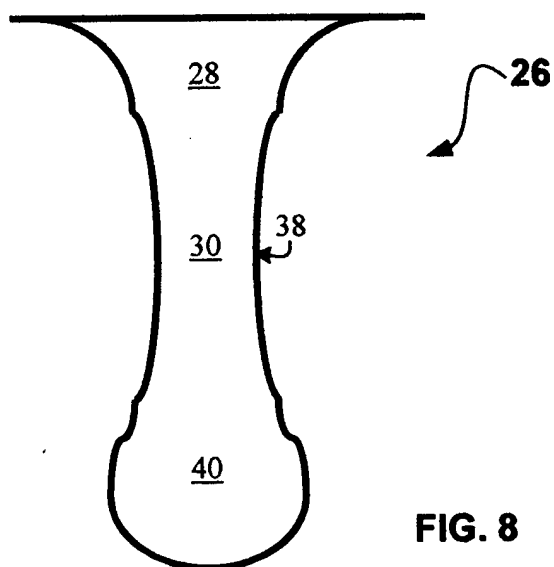


FIG. 8